

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device configuring method for configuring a plurality of devices of various kinds by an information processing apparatus in which connected to the devices via  
5 a communication network, the method comprising:

acquiring from a first device both model information of the first device and identification information specific to the first device by the information processing apparatus;

10 acquiring from the first device configuration information of the first device by the information processing apparatus;

storing the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the  
15 identification information of the first device;

acquiring from a second device both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device by the information processing apparatus;

20 determining whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other;

transmitting, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information  
25 of the second device coincide with each other, the stored

configuration information of the first device from the information processing apparatus to the second device; and configuring the second device in accordance with the transmitted configuration information.

5 2. A device configuring system comprising:  
a plurality of devices of various kinds; and  
an information processing apparatus in which  
connected to the devices via a communication network,  
wherein the information processing apparatus  
10 comprises:

a first acquiring unit configured to acquire from a first device both model information of the first device and identification information specific to the first device;

15 a configuration information acquiring unit configured to acquire from the first device configuration information of the first device;

a storing unit configured to store the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both  
20 the model information and the identification information of the first device;

a second acquiring unit configured to acquire from a second device both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second  
25 device;

a determining unit configured to determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other; and

5 a transmitting unit configured to transmit, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, the stored configuration information of the first device to the second device,

10 wherein the second device comprises a configuring unit configured to perform a configuration thereof in accordance with the transmitted configuration information.

3. The device configuring system as claimed in claim 2,  
15 wherein the second device further comprises a completion information transmitting unit configured to transmit, after the configuration is completed, completion information that indicates the completion of the configuration to the information processing apparatus.

20 4. The device configuring system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the information processing apparatus further comprises an editing unit configured to edit the configuration information,

wherein the storing unit is further configured to  
25 store the edited configuration information, and

wherein the transmitting unit is configured to transmit the edited configuration information as the configuration information to the second device.

5. The device configuring system as claimed in claim 2,  
5 wherein the identification comprises an MAC address of the device.

6. A device configuring system comprising:

a plurality of devices of various kinds; and  
an information processing apparatus in which  
10 connected to the devices via a communication network,  
wherein the information processing apparatus  
comprises:

a first acquiring unit configured to acquire from a  
first device model information of the first device;

15 a configuration information acquiring unit  
configured to acquire from the first device configuration  
information of the first device;

a storing unit configured to store the acquired  
configuration information in a status correlated with the  
20 model information of the first device; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the stored  
configuration information of the first device together  
with the correlated model information to a second device,

wherein the second device comprises:

25 a determining unit configured to determine whether

or not the transmitted model information of the first device coincides with a previously stored model information thereof; and

5 a configuring unit configured to perform a configuration thereof in accordance with the transmitted configuration information in a case where determined that the transmitted model information and the previously stored model information coincide each other.

7. An information processing apparatus for configuring  
10 a plurality of devices of various kinds that are connected thereto via a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a first acquiring unit configured to acquire from a first device both model information of the first device  
15 and identification information specific to the first device;

a configuration information acquiring unit configured to acquire from the first device configuration information of the first device;

20 a storing unit configured to store the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the identification information of the first device;

a second acquiring unit configured to acquire from  
25 a second device both model information of the second device

and identification information specific to the second device;

a determining unit configured to determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, the stored configuration information of the first device to the second device.

8. A software program product for causing a computer system to execute procedures for configuring a plurality of devices of various kinds that are connected thereto via a communication network, the software program product comprising:

means for acquiring, from a first device, model information of the first device, identification information specific to the first device, and configuration information of the first device;

means for storing the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the identification information of the first device;

means for acquiring from a second device both model

information of the second device and identification  
information specific to the second device;

means for determining whether or not the model  
information of the first device and the model information  
5 of the second device coincide with each other; and

means for transmitting, when determined that the  
model information of the first device and the model  
information of the second device coincide with each other,  
the stored configuration information of the first device  
10 to the second device.